[19th January 1949

Sri K. MANATHUNAINATHA DESIGAR :—" May I know whether the purchase of the vessel was made after consulting qualified persons? "

The Hon. Dr. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" As far as I know, the vessel was purchased from the disposal of the surplus war materials in the Bombay Port, and it was duly inspected and thought worthy of being purchased."

Sri K. MANATHUNAINATHA DESIGAR :—" May I know whether the Government consulted any qualified person as to whether the vessel would serve the purpose for which it was intended? "

The Hon. Dr. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" Yes."

Sri R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Is the vessel now used for the purpose for which it was purchased? "

The Hon. Dr. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" It is not now used."

Ration shops in Chingleput.

* 171 *Q.*—Sri C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Food be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government have issued orders to the Collector of Chingleput district to give ration shops to the old ration shop-keepers?

The Hon. Dr. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" No. Collectors have been instructed to see that only such of the old ration shop-keepers who had a clean record are appointed as ration shop-keepers and that the remaining vacancies are filled in by new men (not necessarily those who were in the trade before) with the necessary qualification and who can be trusted to be honest."

Sri C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR :—" Is it not a fact that some of the ration shop-keepers who misbehaved during the former control days have now been allowed to open ration shops? "

The Hon. Dr. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" If the hon. Member has information to that effect and if he will pass it on to me, I shall make enquiries."

Revision of bus-fares in the Madras City.

* 172 *Q.*—Sri S. B. ADITYAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Transport Advisory Board, at its meeting on the 28th October 1948, decided to revise bus-fares on Government Transport buses in the Madras City;

(*b*) if so, what the old and new fares are on the various routes;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that the representatives of the Bus Passengers' Association walked out of the meeting in protest;

19th January 1949]

(*d*) whether it is a fact that the Government have approved of the revision of the fares; and

(*e*) if so, whether the Government took into consideration the fact that a popular route could be operated at a smaller fare per mile than an unpopular route?

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" (*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

" (*b*) A statement [a] is laid on the table of the House.

" (*c*) Sri R. R. Dalavai did walk out in protest.

" (*d*) The fares were only rationalized in accordance with the rates approved by the Government in November 1947 after due publication. The question of Government's approval of the revised fares did not therefore arise.

" (*e*) This question does not arise in view of the answer to clause (*d*) above."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know whether the Government have since received fresh proposals for the revision of fares and, if so, whether they are under consideration? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" There have been proposals not about the revision of fares but about the revision of stages and these are under the consideration of the Government."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—" Is it not a fact that on all the 37 routes, the revised fares are either stationary or higher and that on no route there has been any reduction? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" It is obvious from the comparative statement placed on the table of the House."

SRI B. BHIMA RAO :—" Will the Government consider the desirability of making the fare from Parrys to Tyagarayanagar, uniform on all routes? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" It is under the consideration of the Government."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Is there a proposal to reconstitute the Transport Advisory Board? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" Yes, the City Transport Advisory Board is going to be reconstituted."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—" Will the Government consult public opinion and revise the fares in conformity with it? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" I do not think we can consult public opinion with regard to revision of fares. But with regard to the revision of stages and connected matters, the Transport Advisory Board, which will be broad-based under the proposed reconstitution, will certainly be consulted."

---

[a] Printed as Appendix I on page 852 infra.